Message Text

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USUN FOR AMBASSADOR LEONARD
FROM AMBASSADOR VANDEN HEUVEL

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AORG, APER, UN

SUBJECT: PERSONNEL DEVELOPMENTS - UNITED NATIONS, GENEVA

REFERENCE: STATE 125986

AS STATED IN OUR EARLIER CABLE (GENEVA 7226), WE THINK THAT GIVING THE JOB OF CHIEF OF PERSONNEL FOR UNOG TO A SOVIET NATIONAL WILL BE A MAJOR SETBACK, AND THAT EVERY-THING POSSIBLE MUST BE DONE TO STOP IT. FROM U.S. MISSION'S POINT OF VIEW, WE WOULD THINK THAT IT WOULD BE ENTIRELY PROPER TO ARGUE IN THE MOST FORCEFUL TERMS POSSIBLE THAT NEITHER SUPER POWER SHOULD HAVE ITS NATIONALS IN TOP PERSONNEL SLOTS IN THE UN SYSTEM SINCE THESE TEND TO BE KEY TO THE PLACEMENT OF PEOPLE IN OTHER IMPORTANT POSITIONS. I WOULD PERSONALLY URGE, THEREFORE, THAT EVERY STEP BE TAKEN TO IMPRESS UPON SYG WALDHEIM HOW STRONGLY WE FEEL ABOUT THIS. WHEN I CONTEMPLATE EXPLAINING THE AP-POINTMENT OF A SOVIET NATIONAL AS TOP PERSONNEL CHIEF TO CONGRESSMEN INTERESTED IN UN PERSONNEL POLICIES, I FEAR THAT OUR RESPONSE WILL NOT BE MET WITH EITHER CLARITY CONFIDENTIAL

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OR CHARITY. IN OUR JUDGMENT, SUCH AN APPOINTMENT IS TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE. VANDEN HEUVEL

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